

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application

Claims 30, 34-36 and 40-46 are withdrawn.

Please cancel claims 13-14 and 39. Please new claim 48.

Please otherwise amend the claims as follows:

1. (Presently Amended) A diametrically expandable coupling arrangement for coupling diametrically expandable first and second tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular, the male thread portion comprising a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots;
and

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the female thread portion comprising a plurality of dovetail threads made up of respective roots and opposing flanks, and configured to threadedly mate with the threads of the male thread portion, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots; and

~~the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having flanks inclined at an angle of greater than 10°~~an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular is diametrically expanded into engagement with the second tubular.

2. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the coupling arrangement is adapted for expansion by a rotary expansion tool.

3. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 2, wherein the thread portions define a thread cut in an opposite direction to ~~the~~an intended direction of

rotation of the rotary expansion tool.

4. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein each ~~thread portion of the opposing flanks defines~~ has stab flanks and load flanks, and both the stab flanks and the load flanks of each respective thread ~~portion~~ are inclined at substantially the same angle.
5. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks are inclined at an angle of greater than 15°.
6. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the male thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 80° to the male thread portion roots.
7. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the male thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 75° to the male thread portion roots.
8. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the female thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 80° to the female thread portion roots.
9. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the flanks of the female thread portion are inclined at an angle of less than 75° to the female thread portion roots.
10. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are parallel.
11. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are tapered.

12. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are stepped.
13. (Cancelled) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the first tubular has a leading end portion adapted to be radially constrained by the second tubular.
14. (Cancelled) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the second tubular defines an undercut groove adapted to receive the leading end portion of the first tubular.
15. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the ~~second tubular defines a groove adapted to receive the leading end of the first tubular, the groove extending axially and being~~coupling arrangement is dimensioned to accommodate relative axial extension of between the first tubular and the second tubular.
16. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 15, wherein the coupling arrangement further comprises:
groove accommodates a deformable seal within the groove.
17. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 16, wherein the deformable seal is ~~of~~fabricated from an elastomerelastomeric material,~~adapted to be~~that is energised by relative axial extension of the first tubular.
18. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 16, wherein the deformable seal comprises a material which swells when exposed to a selected material.
19. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim ~~[[14]]~~ 1, wherein the groove features a rounded recess angle.

20. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the first tubular comprises at least one sealing member for sealing engagement with an opposing surface of the second tubular.

21. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located for sealing engagement with an opposing surface adjacent a free end of the second tubular.

22. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 21, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located for sealing engagement with a surface spaced sufficiently from the free end of the second tubular to accommodate axial shrinkage of the tubular following expansion.

23. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 21, wherein the at least one sealing member is arranged and located such that the end effect of the free end of the second tubular following expansion serves to energise the sealing member.

24. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein the sealing member comprises an elastomer.

25. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein at least two axially spaced sealing members are provided.

26. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the at least two sealing ~~member~~ members is located in a groove in the first tubular.

27. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 20, wherein ~~the~~ at least one of the at least two sealing ~~member~~ members comprises a material which swells when exposed to a selected material.

28. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 27, wherein the at least one sealing member comprises a swelling elastomer.
29. (Presently Amended) The coupling arrangement of claim 28, wherein two or more sealing members are provided and are adapted to swell in response to contact with different respective fluids.
30. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the free end of the first tubular arranged to permit axial movement of the free end relative to the second tubular.
31. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the material properties of the male and female threads are selected to facilitate engagement of the threads on the coupling being subject to rotary expansion.
32. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein the thread portions are metallic.
33. (Original) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein at least some of the crests of the threads are adapted to extend axially on expansion of the coupling.
34. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein at least some of the crests of the threads comprise a relief.
35. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 1, wherein at least some of the roots of the threads comprise a spreader.
36. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 35, wherein the spreader comprises a rib.

37. (Presently Amended) A first tubular comprising having a male thread portion on an end thereof, the male thread portion comprising:

a plurality of dovetail threads having made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots; and

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

and wherein:

the plurality of dovetail threads of the first tubular are configured to threadedly mate with a plurality of dovetail threads on an end portion of a second tubular, the plurality of dovetail threads of the second tubular being female threads made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks; and

the nose of the first tubular is configured to be received by an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular so as to prevent the nose from separating after the first tubular has been diametrically expanded into engagement with the second tubular.

38. (Presently Amended) A first tubular comprising having a female thread portion on an end thereof, the female thread portion comprising:

a plurality of dovetail threads having made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks, with the flanks being inclined at an angle of greater than 10° relative to the roots; and

an undercut groove;

and wherein:

the plurality of dovetail threads of the first tubular are configured to threadedly mate with a plurality of dovetail threads on an end portion of a second tubular, the plurality of dovetail threads of the second tubular being male threads also made up of respective roots, crests and opposing flanks; and

the undercut groove of the first tubular is configured to receive an nose along the end portion of the second tubular so as to prevent the nose from separating after the second tubular has been diametrically expanded into engagement with the first tubular.

39. (Cancelled) A tubular string comprising first and second tubulars and comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of the first tubular; and

a female thread portion on an end portion of the second tubular,

the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having flanks inclined at an angle of greater than 10°.

40. (Withdrawn) A coupling arrangement for first and second tubulars comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular; and

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular,

wherein a free end of the first tubular is not threaded, to permit axial movement of the free end relative to the second tubular.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of expanding a threaded coupling comprising:

providing a coupling having a thread cut in one direction; and

passing a rotary expansion tool through the coupling while rotating the tool in the other direction.

42. (Withdrawn) A diametrically expandable coupling arrangement for coupling diametrically expandable first and second tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular; and

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular,

the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having at least some crests adapted to extend axially on expansion of the coupling.

43. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 42, wherein at least some of the crests of the threads comprise a relief.

44. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 42, wherein at least some of the roots of the threads comprise a spreader.

45. (Withdrawn) The coupling arrangement of claim 44, wherein the spreader comprises a rib.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of expanding a threaded coupling comprising:
providing a coupling having male and female thread portions, the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having flanks inclined at an angle of greater than 10°; and
passing a rotary expansion tool through the coupling.

47. (Original) An expandable coupling arrangement for first and second expandable tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular; and

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the second tubular defining an undercut groove adapted to receive the leading end portion of the first tubular,

the thread portions comprising dovetail threads having flanks inclined at an angle of greater than 10°.

48. (New) A diametrically expandable coupling arrangement for coupling diametrically expandable first and second tubulars, the coupling arrangement comprising:

a male thread portion on an end portion of a first tubular;

a nose along the end portion of the first tubular;

a female thread portion on an end portion of a second tubular, the female thread portion being configured to threadedly mate with the threads of the male thread portion;
and

an undercut groove along the end portion of the second tubular adapted to receive the nose of the first tubular and to prevent the nose from separating as the first tubular is diametrically expanded into engagement with the second tubular.